

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

VOL. XXXIX.

APRIL, 1900.

No. 162.

Stated Meeting, April 6, 1900.

Vice-President SELLERS in the Chair.

Present, 26 members.

Mr. Frank Miles Day, a newly elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat in the Society.

The following correspondence was presented :

From Mr. J. H. Morgan, declining membership.

A communication from the Committee on the Modification of the Federal Legacy Tax, asking the coöperation of the Society. The President was requested to sign the memorial presented.

A notice relating to the "Concours d'objectifs à long foyer pour la Télé-photographie en Ballon."

The Librarian presented a list of the donations to the Library.

The death of the following members was announced :

Charles Bullock, of Philadelphia, on March 21, 1900, aged 74 years.

Franz Ritter von Hauer, at Leoben, Austria.

William M. Tilghman, of Philadelphia, on April 5, 1900.

The President was requested to appoint members to prepare obituary notices respectively of Mr. Charles Bullock and Mr. William M. Tilghman.

The following papers were read :

By Rudolph Buti, Ph.D., "About a Seal of the King Brunaburgas of Babilony."

By Mr. J. G. Rosengarten, on "American History from German Archives."

Dr. Hays, on behalf of the Committee on Historical Manuscripts, presented for publication in the *Proceedings* a calendar of the military correspondence of Major-General Nathaniel Greene, in the Library of the Society.

The Committee to which was referred the communication of the Philadelphia Section of the American Chemical Society, asking the coöperation of this Society in the effort to have a National Standards Bureau established in connection with the U. S. Office of Standard Weights, offered the following, which was adopted:

Whereas, In the conduct of accurate scientific investigations, the use of apparatus of guaranteed accuracy is a need recognized by all scientists; and

Whereas, In foreign countries, notably in Germany, in France, and in England, such guarantee is furnished by standardizing bureaux under the control of the respective Governments; and

Whereas, At present the United States Office of Standard Weights and Measures does not possess appliances necessary for this verification of as wide a range of apparatus as seems essential, nor the working force required to comply with legitimate demands for the verification and stamping of the various scientific apparatus designed for measurements of precision, thus compelling the importation of foreign-made articles when such official certification is desired; and

Whereas, This state of affairs is not only unsatisfactory to all investigators in both pure and applied science, but also works injustice to our manufacturers of nearly all physical and chemical apparatus designed for accurate measurement, who cannot supply the proper certification with such instruments: therefore be it

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States be urged to establish a National Standards Bureau, in connection with the U. S. Office of Standard Weights and Measures, which shall provide adequate facilities for making such verification of scientific measuring apparatus and stamping the same as are provided by foreign Governments for similar work.

Resolved, further, that a copy of the foregoing be forwarded to

the Secretary of the Treasury, under whose control the present office of Standard Weights and Measures comes; to the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; to the President of the U. S. Senate; to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the Chairman and members of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, and to any other officials or individuals likely to be interested or influential, with a request for their coöperation in our efforts to secure for the U. S. Office of Standard Weights and Measures ample facilities, in point of apparatus and working force, to enable that office to comply with the requests for the verification of measuring instruments that may be made by American scientific workers.

The Society was adjourned by the presiding officer.

AMERICAN HISTORY FROM GERMAN ARCHIVES.

BY J. G. ROSENGARTEN.

(Read April 6, 1900.)

While a body of able historians, McMaster, Rhoades, Fisk, Schouler and others, are enriching the world by an admirable series of works on American history, there still remains another field for historical research of interest and value. There are in Germany many papers dealing with the services of the Germans who were here as soldiers under the British flag and took an active and important part in the War of American Independence. Bancroft and Lowell, Kapp and Ratterman have collected and used such material as they could gather. General Stryker, in his *History of the Battle of Trenton*, has added largely to our stock of material for a better knowledge of the contents of the German Archives, still carefully preserved at Marburg and Berlin; and other collections of German records. It was through Kapp's labors that Bancroft added to his own collections, now belonging to the New York Public Library, and deposited in the Lenox Library of that city. These include Steuben's letters, Riedesel's papers, the Anspach papers, the Brunswick papers, Ewald's *Feldzug der Hessen nach Amerika*, *Geschichte der Hessischen Yäger in Amerikanischen Kriege*, fourteen